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JUNE 2.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Eighteen members present.

The thanks of the Academy were tendered to Mr. Alfred B. Durand for a life-sized portrait of his father, the late Elias Durand, presented this evening.

*Habits of the Orchard Oriole.*—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN stated that he was not familiar with the latest knowledge in ornithology, that not being a special study with him; but if *Wilson's Ornithology* contained all that was known of the habits of the orchard oriole—*Oriolus mutatus*—he might say that the bird did not confine itself solely to insect food. He had on his grounds a large specimen of the *Staphylea trifolia*, which, when in bloom, was a favorite resort with humblebees and humming-birds, and the oriole took its share of honey from the flowers as well. It did not rest on the wing as the humming-bird did, but sought a lower branch from which it could leisurely extract the sweets from the flowers above. He had thought it possible that the bird was in search of insects among the flowers, but a careful examination proved otherwise.

*Poisonous character of the Flowers of Wistaria Sinensis.*—Mr. MEEHAN remarked that there was a popular belief that the flowers of the *Wistaria sinensis* were destructive to bees. He had himself seen hundreds of dead bees under large flowering plants. He was struck with the fact this season, that none were dead under similar circumstances. The flowers were continually visited by the honey bee, and others, without, so far as he could see, any fatal results following. It was clear, therefore, that, whatever might be the cause of the death of these insects under some circumstances, it could not be from the honey alone.

*Growth of the Cuiacus arvensis*, Hoff.—In regard to the rapidity with which plants sometimes grew, Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN observed that, though it was well known that the Canada thistle spread surprisingly, there had been no figures, giving its exact growth, placed on record. In the first week in May, 1873, he sowed a few seeds. By the first week in June the little plants were well above the ground, and about to push out their stolons. They continued to radiate from this centre in every direction till the first week in September, when they had reached a distance of six feet, covering a circle of twelve feet in diameter, the space being

profusely filled with plants thrown up from the creeping stolons. This gave an average of about three-fourths of an inch of growth per day; equal to maize or other rapid-growing vegetation above ground.

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JUNE 9.

Prof. JOS. LEIDY in the chair.

Sixteen members present.

Prof. PERSIFOR FRAZER, Jr., made the following remarks:—

During a recent trip to Missouri I had an opportunity of visiting and personally examining the Pilot Knob, and Iron Mountain, and Mine La Motte districts, in company with two of the assistant geologists—Prof. Potter and Mr. Gage. There is much in this district, and in fact in most parts of Missouri, to interest the student of geology from east of the Alleghanies: for example, the variations in the character of the porphyry, which is the archæan according to Prof. Pumpelly, or the azoic member of the Missouri series. This porphyry carries several deposits of ore, both veins and beds, as has been ably pointed out in the recent geological survey of the State by Prof. Pumpelly. This, and the magnesian limestones which overlie it, form the principal part of the surface in the southeastern part of the State.

Mine La Motte is situated in St. Francois County, about ninety miles nearly due south of St. Louis. There are extensive works put up on this property, and the whole was sold to an English company two years ago for \$3,000,000, but the sale could not be ratified owing to a law of Missouri which prohibits foreigners from holding property in that State. At least such was the information given to me. The deposits of lead and copper and nickel ores at Mine La Motte, part of a great belt about one hundred miles wide which crosses the State from southeast to northwest, lie in the limestone. At Mine La Motte there is a profuse occurrence of nickel-bearing minerals, and especially of millerite, which is found in stellate, acicular, and radial crystals on the surface of many of the lumps of ore.

The works here, before they were burned down, treated the ores in open American hearths, and brought out matt which was shipped to Swansea. It is said, on competent authority, that a galena exhibiting a peculiar blue color (like that found on the surface of much peacock ore), contains cobalt. The cause of this color, and also its connection with the contained metal, are not perfectly understood. Almost all of the galena of the district is colored in this way.

I present also specimens of iron ore from Iron Mountain, Missouri, where it occurs in irregular veins, intersecting the por-